



THE DIGGER

Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society

New Officers & Committee Chairs

On June 21, 2019, elections were held at our monthly meeting with the following results:

New President: Margaret Ready

Vice President: *Position available*

Recording Secretary: Anne Winter

Treasurer: Wendy Watling

Directors: Ken Hensley, Liz Sloan, Mary Ellis & Gretchen Hansen. Also, Past President, Areta Fleming

Committee Chairs:

Historian: Bob Wolf

Hospitality: Terry Nordgren & Gretchen Hansen

Membership: Cheryl Sibthorp

Programs: Karla Henderlong

Publicity: Susan Rush, Anne Winter & Wendy Watling

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Gena Philibert-Ortega

July 19th Speaker: Gena Philibert-Ortega

We once again welcome Gena Philibert-Ortega as our July speaker. She has been to MDGS many times and we look forward to her summer visits. Gena has a wide variety of topics that she speaks about and this month she will be doing a two part series on "Solving Your Brick Walls". You know we all have at least one brick wall in our genealogy...

If you are interested in a further conversation with Gena, sign up for the No-Host lunch following the general meeting. Contact Terry Nordgren at 925-997-0033 or e-mail her at TerryRich33@gmail.com by 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 17th.

Upcoming Events

MDGS Speakers

AUG No Meeting

Other Societies Speakers

Contra Costa County Genealogical Society

11 Jul Gena Philibert-Ortega—A Genealogist Visits a Library

AUG No Meeting

Meetings Thurs. 7-9 p.m. at LDS Building, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord, CA
For reservations to October Fall Seminar go to <https://cccgs.net/cpage.php?pt=21>

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

16 Jul Gena Philibert-Ortega—Anatomy of Birth, Marriage & Death Records

AUG No Meeting

Meeting Tues. 10-12 at LDS Building, 2949 Stone Valley Rd @ Smith Rd., Alamo, CA

Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia

JUL No Meeting

1 Aug DVD Training: Assembling an Account of Your Discoveries At Heritage Chamber

Meetings Thurs. 1-2:30 p.m.
Vallejo Naval History Museum, 734 Marin St., Vallejo, CA

Solano County Genealogical Society

JUL/AUG No Meeting

7 Sep Nancy Loe
Scottish Genealogy

Meetings Sat. at 11:00 a.m.
Fairfield Adult Recreation Center, 1200 Civic Dr., Fairfield, CA

Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society

8 Jul Gena Philibert-Ortega —TBA

12 Aug Bill Hewitt—Restoring & Documenting Old Cemeteries
Meetings Mon. 7:30 p.m.

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton, CA

NEED HELP WITH YOUR FAMILY TREE?

Building Skills for Successful Family History Research!

Instructor is Pamela Brett. California Genealogical Society is presenting a 4 Wednesday Evening course: July 10 through July 31 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Oakland Family Search Library, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA

For more information on cost and to register click on link below

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-skills-for-successful-family-history-research-registration-53605418249>

2019 CCCGS Fall Seminar

Angie Bush, Celebrated Genetic Genealogist, Presents "A Day With DNA"

Saturday, October 12

Pleasant Hill Senior Center,
233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.)

For more information or to Register

<https://cccg.net/cpage.php?pt=21>



Excerpt from email sent to GEDmatch subscribers:

GEDmatch recently instituted a change of policy regarding law enforcement (LE) use of our site. We now require specific approval from each user who wishes to have their information available for LE use. If permission is not given, there is no change in user ability to use GEDmatch for genealogical purposes. We have also redefined the definition of violent crimes in our Terms of Service to better fit the national standard established by the FBI.

Most importantly, we wish to make it clear that we strongly support law enforcement. The use of genetic genealogy for providing leads in violent crimes has been called the "Biggest crime-fighting breakthrough in decades" Its incredible success to date has been due almost entirely to the GEDmatch database. We encourage users who approve of LE use to **"opt-in"** (make their information available for use in catching violent criminals). Those who opt-in may never know if their information has been used to catch a murderer, rapist or otherwise dangerous person. One reason police do not contact users whose information might be used to solve cases is that it runs the risk of alerting a potential suspect. It is also important to note that LE does not have any special access to GEDmatch. They simply use the system and its features in the exact same manner as any member of the public but are limited to seeing only matches with opted-in kits.



Excerpts from an article in The Family Curator.com—"How to Preserve and Test Old Letters for Grandma's DNA."

BY DENISE MAY LEVENICK | APRIL 19, 2018

<https://thefamilycurator.com/how-to-preserve-and-test-old-letters-for-grandmas-dna/> <https://thefamilycurator.com>

DNA testing of old postage stamps, envelope flaps and other personal artifacts will soon become available to genealogy hunters. In this article she explains how to locate potential specimens, how to preserve items and make a testing strategy plan. Testing services are available to the general public at a cost of \$1,000-\$2,500 according to David Nicholson, Managing Director of Living DNA. 1) Look for envelopes where the flap & seal are intact. (wear white cotton or nitrate gloves) 2) Store letters & artifacts inside acid-free paper folders and inside archival boxes or metal file drawers in cool, moderate temperature & humidity conditions. Avoid storing in plastic, and do NOT freeze.

(You might want to wait a little longer, until the price of testing goes down.)

Check out the Lafayette Library Events Calendar for more genealogy workshops. Jane Knowles Lindsey (a long time member of California Genealogical Society) gave an **Intro to Genealogy Workshop** on June 24th. *Watch for more classes.*

<http://ccclib.evanced.info/signup/calendar>